

REMARKS

The Office Action of December 1, 2004 has been received and its contents carefully considered. Claim 11 has been amended editorially to correct minor grammatical errors. The amendments are unrelated to satisfaction of any requirement of 35 USC. Claims 1 and 11 are independent claims, and claims 1-20 remain pending in the application. For at least the following reasons, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 3-11, and 13-20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0179694 to *Alley* in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 200100141163 to *Hickman et al.* The Examiner has also rejected claims 2 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0179694 to *Alley* in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 200100141163 to *Hickman* as applied to claims 1, 3-11, and 13-20 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0219131 to *Akiho*.

It is noted that the reference by *Alley* has a filing date of Dec. 12, 2003. However, Applicant's priority document has a filing date of September 29, 2003. It is also noted that Applicant has claimed the rights of foreign priority of this priority document. It is further noted that Applicant submitted a certified copy of the priority document with the filing of this application on March 30, 2004. Furthermore, attached to this Amendment is an accurate English-language translation of the priority application, as well as a statement by the translator, stating that the translation of this certified copy of the priority document is accurate. Applicant believes that, as evidenced by the attached translation, the priority application fully satisfies the enablement and description requirements of 35 USC §112, first paragraph. The rejections therefore are deemed to have been rendered moot. The rejections accordingly should be withdrawn.

Based upon the above, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance,

and such a Notice, with allowed claims 1-20, earnestly is solicited.

Should the Examiner feel that a conference would be helpful in expediting the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is hereby invited to contact the undersigned counsel to arrange for such an interview.

Respectfully submitted,

January 31, 2005
Date


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